

Legislative Strengthening Programme

Supported by: British Department for International Development (DFID)

Highlights of 2017

- **Constitution Review Exercise of the National Assembly:** PLAC provided technical support to the National Assembly Committees on Constitution Review to finalise their work on constitution amendments. The major achievement recorded was the submission of 33 bills presented to both chambers for adoption, of which 21 bills passed. To create awareness and facilitate advocacy on the bills, the bills passed by the National Assembly were compiled in a publication titled, Constitution Amendment bill approved by the 8th National Assembly: Awaiting States Votes
- **Electoral Reform Exercise of the National Assembly:** PLAC continues to provide technical support to NASS on Electoral reforms and anticipates its quick conclusion. In addition, PLAC supported and promoted efforts to establish an Electoral Offences Commission Bill. While this has not been realised, momentum was built around the need for a structure or mechanism for enforcing electoral accountability. In addition, PLAC's support to the Senate committee on INEC contributed to timely adoption of the Electoral Act Amendment Bill –within the first two years of the Assembly.
- **Constitution and Electoral Reform Committee of the Executive/Ministry of Justice:** To ensure harmony of the constitution and electoral reform process in the legislative and executive arms, PLAC supported several aspects of this Committee's work including the hosting of its secretariat, facilitation of meetings and retreats and a National Public Hearing. This committee consisted of 25 members set up in 2016 to recommend measures required to improve the electoral process and deepen democracy in Nigeria. The Committee has produced and submitted its final report to the Attorney General/Minister of Justice.

Our Impact

2017



■ **Participation of CSOs in the 2017 National Budget:** Following advocacy for a more inclusive and engaging budgetary process, PLAC supported the first ever Public hearing on the National Budget in February 2017. This milestone was reached following series of engagements between NASS committees and groups engaged by PLAC in the previous year.

■ **Facilitating Public Discourse on Constituency Development Funds:** The National Assembly set out to legislate on Constituency Project Funds through a Bill titled "The Constituency (Catalyst) Development Fund Bill" in response to public outcry on the lack of transparency over funds for Constituency Projects. PLAC supported the organisation of a public hearing on the issue. The popularity of the hearing and the Committee's decision to prioritise the issue was made possible due to public vigilance and interest on the issue following awareness on the issue.

■ **Increased Citizens' Interest in NASS Activities** - There is an Increased interest by citizens to engage national issues as a result of the Bill analysis done through the Placbillstrack online platform. PLAC experienced an increase in the number of visits to both the PLAC website and Placbillstrack platform as well as request for partnership from two media Houses, particularly to link their online platform to PLAC's for benefit of their followers.

■ **Best Practice Guides-** Two Best Practice Guides were developed in the period, namely, "Guide to Effective Lawmaking" and a "How-To Guide on conduct of public hearing." The guide on public hearings was developed to assist Committees in their conduct of public hearings and is particularly useful for members and staff having little experience of lawmaking.

■ **Improved Committee Process and improved work process in the National Assembly:** PLAC supported the Clerk of the National Assembly to develop a document for the repositioning of NASS and improvement of Committee process as well as the work environment. Some of the recommendations are currently being implemented.

■ **National Assembly Performance Index:** PLAC conducted a National Assembly Performance survey in the year. The results showed a 38.5% approval rating of NASS as at May 2017 which indicated a perceived below average performance of the 8th Assembly as at that date.

■ **Protecting Civic Space via Engagement on Contentious NGO Regulation Bill:** The Bill, which sought to restrict the activities of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Nigeria was discussed at a public hearing. PLAC galvanised the participation of its partner CSO groups and expressed a strong disapproval of the bill at the hearing.

PLAC's legislative strengthening programme is focused on ensuring that the capacity of the legislative arm of government to represent Nigerian citizens is improved. PLAC further works to promote citizens' participation in legislative activities and policymaking in general by creating awareness and disseminating relevant information on Nigeria's democracy to citizens and advocacy groups. In 2017, PLAC, via DFID support, carried out a number of activities aimed at promoting these objectives in the key areas appearing below.

Constitution & Electoral Reform: National Assembly

PLAC continued its support to the 8th National Assembly's Constitution Review exercise. Most of the activities implemented in the year was a follow-up from the previous year's activities. As constitution and electoral reform process is a long one, often involving constant changes in the bills/legislative proposals, follow up activities are necessary to update technical support provided to legislators and the committees, and to keep citizens informed. In this area, the following activities were organised by PLAC in furtherance of this:

1. Technical Session of House Consultants/Experts working with the House Committee on Constitution Review held on Wednesday 1st February 2017 & Thursday 2nd February 2017 at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Board Room, Ibeto Hotel, Abuja



2. Retreat of members and Technical experts/consultants of the House of Representatives sub-committee on the review of 8th Assembly Bills Date: Thursday, 9th to Sunday, 12th March 2017 held at the Ibeto Hotels, Abuja
3. Meeting of Consultants/ Technical Experts of the Senate & House of Representatives Ad-hoc Committees on the Review of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution held on Tuesday, 28th & Wednesday, 29th March 2017 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotels, Abuja
4. Retreat of the Senate Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on the Passage of

the Electoral Act (Amendment) 2010 on 30th March 2017

5. Retreat of the Ad- hoc Committee on the review of the 1999 Constitution –House of Representatives held between 28th & 29th April 2017 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja
6. Meeting of the of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution, House of Representatives Monday, 8th May 2017 at the National Assembly
7. House of Representatives Committee on Electoral and Political Matters Public Hearing on Proposed

Amendments to the Electoral Act, 2010 (as Amended) held on Monday, 22nd May 2017 at Conf. Room 231, National Assembly Complex

8. Retreat of Senate and House Technical Experts/Consultants on the review of the 1999 Constitution held between 24th and 27th May 2017 at the Ibeto Hotel, Abuja
9. Electoral Reform Experts Meeting held with House Electoral Matters Committee on June 5th and 6th of June 2017 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja
10. Support to Public Hearing on Judiciary Reform Bills held on Wednesday July 12th at NASS

11. Joint Retreat of the Senate and House of Reps Constitution Review Committees held on 13th to 16th July 2017 at Intercontinental Hotels, Lagos
12. Meeting of Technical Experts to the Senate and House Constitution review Committee held on 30th August 2017 at Transcorp Hilton to discuss amendment passed by NASS and develop advocacy material to aid CSOs understanding of the amendments
13. CSO meeting on Constitution Review held in Abuja on 18th September 2017
14. Meeting between CSOs and the Conference of Speakers of State Legislatures - 20th September 2017



15. CSO Advocacy Meeting on Constitution Review held at Ibeto Hotel, Abuja on Monday 11th December 2017.

Constitution and Electoral Reform (CERC): Executive

1. Constitution and Electoral Reform Committee (CERC) Technical Experts Session held on Tuesday 17th & Wednesday 18th January 2017 at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Board Room, Ibeto Hotel, Abuja
2. Support to the Ministerial Committee on Constitution and Electoral Review: January – March 2017 (Plenary sessions, Zonal Hearings & National Public Hearing and Technical Drafting Sessions)
3. Two – day Plenary Meeting of the Constitution and Electoral Reform Committee held between 19th & 20th April 2017 at the Transcorp Hilton Abuja
4. Presentation of the Constitution and Electoral Reform Committee Final Report to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice held on 2nd May at the Attorney General's Office, Abuja.

Key Roundtables, Interactive Sessions, Public Hearings

1. One Day Public Hearing on "Constituencies Development Catalyst Fund (establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB 103)" held at Senate Conference room, 022, Senate New Building on Monday 6th February 2017
2. Three Day Public Hearing on the 2017 Appropriation Bill held at Senate Conference Room, 022, Senate New Building on Monday 13th - Wednesday 15th February 2017

3. CSO Mid- Term Review of the 8th National Assembly and Presentation of National Assembly Performance Survey held on 20th of June 2017 at the Ibeto Hotel, Abuja.
4. Engagement with House of Representatives Committee on Civil Society and Development Partners via Public Hearing on a Bill for an Act to amend the Nigerian Red Cross Act, & a Bill for an Act to provide for the Establishment of the Non-governmental Organisations Regulatory Commission (HB 585) held between 13th & 14th December at the National Assembly, Abuja.
5. Annual Legislative Roundtable with the Media held at the Sheraton Hotel, Abuja on 20th November 2017.

Capacity Building For National Assembly Committees and Staff

Capacity Building for National Assembly Staff is an integral part of PLAC programming. In the year under review, the following capacity building activities were organised for committees and committee staff:

- Retreat of the House of Representatives Ad-hoc Committee on Standardization of Manuals and Templates at Intercontinental Hotels and Resort, Lagos State, held from February 2nd to February 6th, 2017.
- National Assembly Senate Bills Office Retreat held February 16th – 19th 2017
- Two-day Capacity Building for Clerks and Assistant Clerks of the House of Representatives on Use of Best Practice Guides on Oversight and Representation held between

- Thursday 15th June & Friday 16th June 2017
- House of Representatives Ad-hoc Committee on the implementation of the Legislative Agenda Review Meeting on the 2nd year of the 8th House of Representatives held on 30th June 2017
- Joint Retreat of the Public Accounts Committees of the National Assembly & Office of the Auditor – General for the Federation (OAUGF) 6th – 9th July 2017
- Retreat/Capacity building workshop for Assistant Clerks of the House of Representatives held on 2nd and 3rd of August 2017
- Capacity Building Workshop for Staff of Committees of the House of Representatives: 7th - 8th August 2017
- Retreat for Committee Clerks of the House of Representatives held 14th – 17th August 2017) on "Practical Tools to Enhance Committee Administration in the National Assembly."
- Retreat for Department of Legislative Scrutiny and Rules and Business: 7th – 10th September 2017
- Capacity Building for Chamber Services and Table Duties Departments of the House of Representatives: 29th -30th September 2017
- House Committee on CSO and Development Partners Retreat, held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Lagos between 16th – 19th November 2017.
- Closed Interactive Session of Development Partners & Members of the House of Representatives Committee on Civil Society Organisations and Development Partners held at Sheraton Hotel, Abuja on Wednesday, 22nd November 2017.

- Workshop for the Staff of the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives held at Ibeto Hotel, Gudu, Abuja on Thursday, 23rd & Friday, 24th November 2017.
- Retreat for Members of the House of Representatives Committee on Rules and Business on Thursday, 23rd - Sunday 26th November 2017 at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos State
- Workshop for the Staff of the House of Representatives Committee on Rules and Business on "Effective Drafting and Legislative Procedure" held between 24th and 25th November 2017.
- Retreat for Members of the House of Representatives Committee on Rules and Business on "Effective Drafting and Legislative Procedure" held between 23rd and 26th November 2017.

Placbillstrack:

Placbillstrack is an online platform initiated by PLAC in 2015/ 2016. This website continues to be a rich resource of bills, motions, oversight reports and other legislative instruments from the National Assembly. This has resulted in increased public awareness of National Assembly activities and enhanced citizens and knowledge of the National Assembly. This has contributed in making National Assembly Members to be more responsive to the electorate on comments and feedback on social media platforms.

List of publications

- Constitution Amendment bill approved by the 8th National Assembly: Awaiting States Votes
- Minute and Report Writing: A How-to Guide
- Synthesis of Best Practice Guide: Effective Representation and How to Conduct Public hearing – Publication

Key Bills Analysed in the year

*Bills are analysed based on their prioritisation by the National Assembly and popularity of the subject matter among citizens.

1. Protection Against Domestic Violence Bill
2. Socially Displaced Persons Unit Bill
3. National Development Bank Bill
4. National Lottery Act, 2004 (Amendment) Bill
5. National Social Security & Welfare Board Bill
6. National Payment Systems Bill
7. EFCC Act, 2004 (Amendment) Bill
8. National Agency for Ethics & Values Bill
9. Whistle Blowers Protection Bill
10. Labour Act 2004 (Amendment) Bill
11. NAFDAC (amend.) Bill
12. CAMA Bill (amend.) Bill
13. Oil & Gas Free Export Zones Bill
14. Investment & Securities Bill
15. Proceeds of Crime Bill (produced with Factsheet)
16. Federal Character Commission Act (Amend) Bill (sponsored by Hon. Edward Pwajok)
17. Federal Character Commission Act (Amend.) Bill (sponsored by Hon.

Peter Akpatason)

18. Federal Character Commission Act (Amend.) Bill
19. Security and Intelligence (Compulsory Inclusion in Secondary School Syllabus) Bill, 2015
20. Renewable Energy Bill
21. Independent Electoral Institute (Est. etc.) Bill, 2015
22. Voluntary Income Declaration, Recovery and Amnesty Scheme Bill, 2017
23. Data Protection Bill
24. Petroleum Host Community Development Bill
25. Federal Audit Service Commission Bill
26. 1Corporate Social Responsibility Bill
27. Disability Integration Bill (Analysis only)
28. National Electoral Offences Commission Bill (Analysis only)

Analyses Done with Infographs

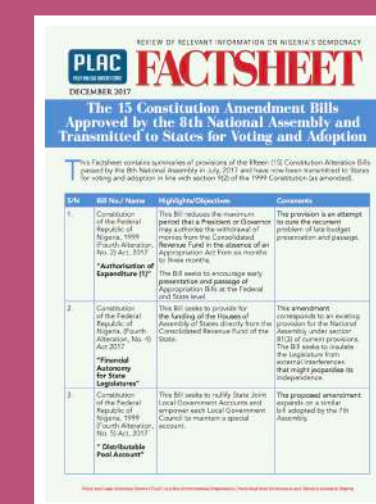
1. Petroleum Refineries Bill
2. Price Control (Essential Commodities) Bill
3. National Minimum Wage Act (Amendment) Bill
4. Crime and Criminal Tracking System Bill
5. Public Interest Disclosure Bill
6. Secured Transactions in Immovable Assets Bill
7. Abduction, Wrongful Restraint & Confinement Bill
8. Stamp Duty Bill
9. Nigerians in Diaspora Bill
10. Statutory Instrument Bill
11. Freedom of information (amendment) Bill
12. Army Colour (Prohibition) (amend.) Bill
13. Good Samaritan Bill

14. Improved Aid Effectiveness Bill
15. Public Procurement Act (Amend.) Bill
16. Nigerian Agency for Foreign Assistance Bill
17. Security Services Welfare Bill
18. Emergency Communication Bill
19. Presidential Transition Bill
20. Security and Intelligence (Compulsory Inclusion in Secondary School Syllabus) Bill, 2015
21. Renewable Energy Bill
22. Independent Electoral Institute (Est. etc.) Bill, 2015
23. Voluntary Income Declaration, Recovery and Amnesty Scheme Bill, 2017
24. Data Protection Bill
25. Petroleum Host Community Development Bill
26. National Commission for Peace and Reconciliation Bill (Info graph & Analysis)
27. In-vitro fertilisation Bill (Info graph and Analysis)
28. Counterfeit Goods Bill (info graph and analysis)

Factsheets

- 1) Compendium of Bills Passed in both Houses (from the beginning of the 8th Assembly till June 2017)
- 2) Non-governmental Organisations Regulatory Commission Bill

Publications



COUNTERFEIT GOODS BILL

BILL SEES TO

- TO INTRODUCE MEASURES AIMED AGAINST THE TRADING IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS SO AS TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF TRADE MARKS AND COPYRIGHT OWNERS AND TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF OWNERS OF GOODS OF THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THEIR RESPECTIVE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.
- TO INTRODUCE MEASURES AIMED AGAINST THE RELEASE OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS INTO CHANNELS OF COMMERCE.

DEALING IN COUNTERFEIT GOODS

Any person who has an interest in a counterfeit goods, whether as the owner or licensee of an intellectual property right in respect of the counterfeit goods, who knowingly or recklessly supplies that counterfeit goods to another person, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten times the value of the goods, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or both.

Any person who has an interest in a counterfeit goods, whether as the owner or licensee of an intellectual property right in respect of the counterfeit goods, who knowingly or recklessly supplies that counterfeit goods to another person, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten times the value of the goods, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or both.

POWERS OF THE MINISTER IN CHARGE OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

TO MAKE ANY REGULATION THAT MAY BE NECESSARY OR CONVENIENT FOR THE PROPER AND EFFECTIVE CONTROL, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THIS BILL, WHEN IT IS PASSED INTO LAW.

TO APPOINT BY NOTICE IN THE GAZETTE ANY FIT AND PROPER PERSON AS AN INSPECTOR FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS BILL, WHEN IT IS PASSED INTO LAW.

TO DESIGNATE FROM TIME TO TIME, ANY PLACE DEFINED IN THE NOTICE TO BE A SEIZURE POINT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS BILL, AND MAY IN A LIKE MANNER AMEND OR WITHDRAW SUCH NOTICE.

OFFENCES

ANY PERSON WHO WITH OUT NECESSARY AUTHORITY BREAKS, DAMAGES OR TAMPER WITH A SEAL, STAMPED BY AN INSPECTOR OR REMOVES ANY ARTICLE SEALED OFF, SHALL BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE.

ANY PERSON WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH ANY REQUEST, DIRECTION, DEMAND OR ORDER MADE OR GIVEN BY AN INSPECTOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL, WHEN IT BECOMES LAW, SHALL BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE.

PENALTIES

ANY PERSON CONVICTED OF AN OFFENCE UNDER THIS BILL, WHEN IT BECOMES LAW, IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF NIG.500,000 PER ITEM OR ARTICLE, OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT MORE THAN 3 YEARS, OR BOTH.

ANY PERSON CONVICTED IN THE CASE FOR A SECOND TIME, IS LIABLE TO PAY A FINE OF NIG.500,000 PER ITEM OR ARTICLE, OR IMPRISONMENT OF A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING 5 YEARS OR BOTH.

PLAC

Independent National Electoral Institute (Est.) Bill

Bill seeks to establish an institute to...

- Provide and promote research and policy insights for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).
- Improve the technical capabilities of staff and ad-hoc staff of INEC.
- Conduct training on election process and procedures for civil society and security agencies in Nigeria.

General Provisions of the Bill...

- The bill seeks to establish a fund which shall pay for the cost of administration, contracts, consultancies and purchases made for the benefit of the institute.
- There shall be established departments to be headed by a director or such other officer on the recommendation of the management and approval of the governing council.
- There shall be established an academic board with the chairman, heads of department and other senior academic staff as members.

Accounts and Financial Rewards...

- The Director-General shall, present on or before August 31 of every year, an estimate of expenditure and incomes of the institute to the council.
- The chairman of the council shall not later than September 30 of every year, submit to the National Assembly, an estimate of expenditure and income of the institute approved by the council for the next fiscal year.

PLAC

NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION BILL

BILL SEEKS TO

- TO PROVIDE FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA IN THE POLICE, PROJECTS AND PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA.
- TO ESTABLISH THE NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION (NIDCOM).
- TO UTILISE THE HUMAN CAPITAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES OF NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA TOWARDS THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

- THE BOARD SHALL BE ESTABLISHED TO OVERSEE THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMISSION.
- A SECRETARY TO BE HEADED BY THE SECRETARY SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR KEEPING THE BOOKS OF THE COMMISSION.
- THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A FUND FROM WHICH ALL EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL BE DERIVED.

POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

- COORDINATE AND HARMONISE THE NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA ORGANISATIONS (NIDORG).
- MOBILISE AND EXECUTE PROGRAMS.
- MANAGE FUNDS WITH RESPECT TO THE RUNNING OF THE COMMISSION.
- REACH OUT TO THE NIGERIAN COMMUNITIES ABROAD.
- STRENGTHEN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SETUP OF THE NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA ORGANISATIONS (NIDORG).

IF THE BILL IS PASSED INTO LAW...

- NIDCOM SHALL BE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA).
- THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT SUBJECT TO THE CONFIRMATION OF THE SENATE.
- NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA ORGANISATION IN ALL COUNTRIES SHALL BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE COMMISSION.
- THE HEADQUARTERS OF NIDCOM SHALL BE IN THE FCT WITH ZONAL OFFICES AROUND NIGERIA.
- NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION (NIDCOM) SHALL BE ESTABLISHED TO COORDINATE AND HARMONISE THE NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA ORGANISATIONS (NIDORG).

PLAC

SECURITY SERVICES WELFARE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BILL

BILL SEEKS TO

- TO ESTABLISH THE SECURITY SERVICES WELFARE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO PROVIDE MANAGEMENT OF THE WELFARE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE SECURITY SERVICES.
- TO REVIEW THE STATE OF WELFARE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE SECURITY SERVICES.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

- ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SECURITY SERVICES WELFARE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.
- THE COMMISSION MAY DELEGATE ANY OF ITS POWERS IN SUCH MANNER AS IT DEEMES FIT TO ANY OF THE FUNCTIONS SPECIFIED IN THIS BILL.
- THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A FUND, WHICH SHALL BE APPLIED TOWARDS THE PROMOTION OF THE FUNCTIONS SPECIFIED IN THIS BILL.
- THE SOURCES OF THE FUND SHALL INCLUDE DONATIONS, GRANTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AS WELL AS APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.
- THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT ITS ANNUAL REPORT WITHIN A MONTH OF EACH FINANCIAL YEAR TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
- THE PRESIDENT SHALL WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE ANNUAL REPORT SUBMIT SAME TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
- THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE POWER TO PRODUCE, HOLD OR OWN MOVABLE OR IMMovable PROPERTY AS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR GIVING EFFECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL.

JURISDICTION

- THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT SHALL HAVE JURISDICTION IN ANY DISPUTE ARISING OUT OF OR IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FUNCTION OF THE COMMISSION.
- AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE BILL WHEN IT BECOMES LAW, ANY OTHER PROVISION OF ANY LAW WHICH RELATES TO THE FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL STAND REPEALED.

PLAC

PETROLEUM HOST COMMUNITY BILL

Objective:

The Bill seeks to provide for a framework relating to a petroleum producing host community's participation, cost and benefit sharing among the government, petroleum exploration companies and host communities.

General Provisions

- The Bill seeks for the host communities:
- 30% of royalties paid by a petroleum exploration company from petroleum production on land within the territory of an upstream petroleum company.
- 30% of an aggregate of total royalties (any set of royalties) according to the Federal Government of Nigeria for petroleum production.
- 1.5% on assessable profit of the company as tax into a Restoration Fund account to ameliorate the effects of petroleum exploration on the environment.
- 50% of amounts paid for pipeline rights of way.

Jurisdiction

- The Bill seeks to encourage industry as it provides for the recruitment of:
- 1. Women to occupy at least 25% of positions.
- 2. Young persons below the age of 40 years to occupy up to 25% of positions.

The High Court of a State shall be the court of first instance to try cases under this Bill (when it becomes law).

Offences & Penalties

- Reduction by a Local Government in the amounts due to a Trust constitutes an offence, punishable on conviction with up to 12 months imprisonment without option of fine.
- Failure to comply with the provisions of this Act shall attract on conviction a fine of N100 or 6 months imprisonment or both.

PLAC

National Commission for Peace, Reconciliation and Mediation Bill

TO IDENTIFY CONFLICTS AND FOR SUPERVISION, COORDINATION AND MONITORING OF ALL PEACE RESOLUTIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS, ETC. IN NIGERIA AND FOR MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO

Bill Seeks To

- IDENTIFY, ASSESS AND MEDIATE IN ALL CONFLICTS NATIONWIDE.
- COORDINATE AND IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL PEACE POLICY WHICH PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK FOR BUILDING PEACE, PREVENTING MANAGING AND RESOLVING DYSFUNCTIONAL CONFLICT IN NIGERIA.
- SUPERVISE INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION (IPCR).
- COORDINATE ALL INTERVENTION EFFORTS AND PROVISIONS OF RELIEF MATERIALS TO AFFECTED PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES.

Function of the Commission

- THE COMMISSION MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BORROW SUCH SUMS IF IT MAY BORROW IN THE EXECUTION OF ITS FUNCTIONS UNDER THE BILL (WHEN IT BECOMES LAW).
- THE COMMISSION MAY ACCEPT GIFTS OF LAND, MONEY OR OTHER PROPERTY ON SUCH TERM AND CONDITIONS AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION MAKING THE GIFT.

Power To Borrow

PLAC

ABDUCTION, WRONGFUL RESTRAINT AND CONFINEMENT BILL

PROVIDE FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF THE OFFENCE OF ABDUCTION, WRONGFUL RESTRAINT AND WRONGFUL CONFINEMENT FOR RANSOM

If Bill is Passed into Law...

- WHOMEVER KNOWINGLY NEGOTIATES OR PAYS FOR THE RELEASE OF ANY PERSON WRONGFULLY CONFINED SHALL ON CONVICTION BE LIABLE TO A TERM UP TO 20 YEARS.
- WHOMEVER NEGOTIATES FOR ANY RANSOM FOR THE RELEASE OF ANY PERSON SHALL ON CONVICTION BE LIABLE TO A TERM OF 20 YEARS WITH HARD LABOUR.
- THE INSPECTOR GENERAL SHALL HAVE POWERS TO AUTHORISE ANY POLICE OFFICER TO INTERCEPT, DETAIN AND OPEN POSTED ARTICLE, IF HE CONSIDERS IT LIKELY TO CONTAIN INFORMATION RELATING TO A PERSON.
- NO WITNESSES SHALL BE OBLIGED OR PERMITTED TO DISCLOSE THE NAME OR ADDRESS OF ANY INFORMER OR REVEAL INFORMATION THAT MAY LEAD TO HIS DISCOVERY.
- NO WITNESSES SHALL BE OBLIGED OR PERMITTED TO DISCLOSE THE NAME OR ADDRESS OF ANY INFORMER OR REVEAL INFORMATION THAT MAY LEAD TO HIS DISCOVERY.
- WHOMEVER CONSPIRES TO COMMIT THE OFFENCE OF ABDUCTION OR WRONGFUL RESTRAINT OR CONFINEMENT SHALL ON CONVICTION BE SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT OPTION OF FINE.
- WHOMEVER IS GUILTY OF THE OFFENCE THAT RESULTED IN THE DEATH OR A PERSON SHALL BE PUNISHED ON CONVICTION BY DEATH SENTENCE.
- WHOMEVER CONSPIRES TO COMMIT THE OFFENCE OF ABDUCTION OR WRONGFUL RESTRAINT OR CONFINEMENT SHALL ON CONVICTION BE SENTENCED TO LIFE.

Bill Shall Apply To..

AN ACT WITH INTENT TO HOLD ANY PERSON FOR RANSOM, ABDUCT OR WRONGFULLY RESTRAIN OR CONFINEMENT A PERSON AGAINST THEIR WILL FOR A RANSOM.

PLAC

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Public Procurement Act 2007 (Amendment) Bill (HB 475) Seeks to...

- Replace the minister of finance with the president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as chairman of the national council on public procurement.
- Include the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors as one of the agencies to be represented by a part-time member.
- Increase the appointment process of the director-general of the Bureau of Public Procurement by requiring confirmation by the National Assembly.
- Conduct procurement involving national security or defense in line with the provisions of the act and its supervision handled by a special committee appointed by the national council on public procurement.
- The National Council on Public Procurement shall be entitled to issue special guidelines and regulations applicable to defense procurement.

Public Procurement Act (Amendment) Bill 2016 (HB 547) Seeks to...

- Grant a contractor a grace period of 90 days if he fails to deliver a contract within the target period.
- Impose a damage of up to 5% of the contract sum on the contractor after the lapse of the 90-day grace period.
- Ensure that a margin of preference be accorded to domestic suppliers offering good manufactured locally over those offering goods manufactured abroad.
- Increase the mobilization fee to be paid to a supplier or contractor from 15% to 35%.
- Subject procurement of goods, works and services by Federal Government and entities receiving up to 35% of appropriation from the consolidated revenue fund.
- Ensure that the bidding documents clearly indicate any preference to be granted to domestic suppliers and contractors.

PLAC

NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Objective

The Bill seeks to delist establishments that have foreigners as majority shareholders and as part of their management from the list of establishments exempted from payment of national minimum wage.

General Provisions

- The Bill seeks to protect workers with infirmity, who may receive less than minimum wage due to their condition as provided under Section 4 of the Principal Act.
- Persons or body of persons found to have contravened the provisions of the Bill (when it becomes law) shall be subjected to prosecution by the Attorney General of the Federation upon referral by an authorized officer.
- Establishments with staff strength of up to 50 can no longer be exempt from paying the national minimum wage. Only establishments with 20 and below number of staff shall be exempted.

Offence & Penalty

Any person who furnishes any information to any authorized officer acting in the exercise of his powers knowing the information to be false, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not less than N100,000.

PLAC

RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL, 2015

BILL SEEKS

- Regulation of the production and supply of wood fuel and bio-fuel.
- Public education of renewable energy production and consumption.
- Building of indigenous capacity in technology for renewable energy sources.
- Improved access to electricity through the use of renewable energy sources.
- Diversification of supplies to safeguard energy security.
- Promotion of the use of renewable energy.
- Provision of a framework to support the development and utilization of energy sources and an enabling environment to attract investment in renewable energy sources.

BILL SEEKS

- Provision of a framework to support the development and utilization of energy sources and an enabling environment to attract investment in renewable energy sources.

WHEN THE BILL BECOMES LAW

- Every person engaging in any commercial activity in the renewable energy industry shall not operate without a license.
- Renewable Energy Fund (REF) shall be established to provide financial resources for the promotion, development and utilization of renewable energy sources.
- There shall be a feed-in-tariff scheme for the purpose of guaranteeing the sale of electricity generated from renewable energy sources.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

- A license granted under this Bill (when it becomes law) shall be for a period specified in the license and is renewable.
- A license granted under this Bill is not transferable except with the prior written approval of the Board.
- When this Bill becomes Law, the Minister shall on its commencement, designate a tariff for a petroleum product in accordance with the National Petroleum Authority Act, 2005.
- The Renewable Energy Fund shall be tax exempt.

NON-COMPLIANCE

Provide for the utilization of renewable energy sources for electricity and heat generation in an efficient and sustainable manner.

PLAC

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION BILL

OBJECTIVE

To make provision for the smooth and orderly transfer of power from one government to another.

WHEN THE INCUMBENT PRESIDENT IS NOT RE-ELECTED

- The President shall within 2 weeks of the declaration of the President-elect as winner of the election, provide space for not more than 10 persons designated by the President-elect to begin a review and analysis of budgeted expenditures during the tenure of the incumbent President.
- The incumbent President shall constitute his transition team, made of persons who must cooperate with the President-elect and the staff he so designated and provide any assistance that may be reasonably requested.
- The President shall provide the President-elect with office facilities for the transition team and remuneration of the staff.

APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL

An Administrator-General shall be appointed to oversee the transition after each general election. He shall be approved by the incumbent President subject to ratification by the Senate.

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Any person who violates any provision of this Bill (when it becomes law) by failing to provide necessary facilities required to be provided by this Bill (when it becomes law) shall be liable to a fine of N1,000,000 or a term of imprisonment of not less than two months or to both as the case may be.

PLAC

NIGERIAN AGENCY FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILL

OBJECTIVES

- Establishment of the Nigerian Agency for Foreign Assistance (the Agency) to initiate, coordinate, and facilitate Nigerian foreign development assistance to needy countries.

POWER OF THE AGENCY

- POWER TO BORROW:** The Agency may from time to time borrow by overdraft or otherwise such sums as it may require for the performance of its functions.
- POWER TO OBTAIN INFORMATION:** The Agency shall have power to obtain relevant information, data and reports on activities relating to foreign assistance.
- POWER TO ENTER A JOINT-VENTURE:** The Agency shall enter into a joint-venture arrangement for the promotion and development of foreign assistance programs.

FUNDING OF THE AGENCY

- Take off grant and annual subvention from the Federal Government.
- Donations and grants-in-aid from bilateral and multilateral bodies.
- Donations from philanthropists.

THE AGENCY MAY APPLY FUNDS RECEIVED TO...

- Financing of the allowances and emoluments of members of the board and staff.
- Cost of administration of the Agency.
- Development and maintenance of properties.

PLAC

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

BILL SEEKS TO

PROVIDE FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS WHO RENDER REASONABLE ASSISTANCE DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS OCCURRING AT PLACES WITHIN FEDERAL JURISDICTION AND TO SERVE AS A MODEL TO BE ADOPTED BY THE STATES OF THE FEDERATION

GOOD SAMARITAN BILL

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY


A person who provides assistance to a consenting person at the scene of an emergency, whether medical or otherwise, without any form of pecuniary compensation or reward shall not be liable for any damages as a result of his acts or omissions while rendering the assistance, unless he acts in an unreasonable manner

SCENE OF EMERGENCY

For the purposes of this Bill, the scene of emergency shall include: - Federal highways, National parks, Airports and on aircrafts, mines and oil fields, Nigerian territorial waters, etc.

PRESUMPTION OF CONSENT

Where a person to whom an emergency assistance is being provided was in a condition that made him unable to give consent or in an unconscious state at the time of emergency, it shall be presumed that he consented to the assistance.



PLAC

VOLUNTARY INCOME DECLARATION, RECOVERY AMNESTY SCHEME BILL

THE BILL SEEKS TO

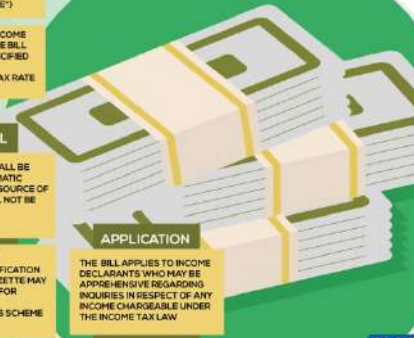
- TO ESTABLISH A SCHEME TO HARNESS UNTAXED MONEY FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES
- TO ASSURE ANY DECLARANT REGARDING INQUIRIES AND PROCEEDINGS UNDER NIGERIAN LAWS

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE BILL

- THE AMOUNT OF UNDISCLOSED INCOME DECLARED AFTER TAX AND SURCHARGE SHALL BE INVESTED WITHIN NIGERIA BY THE DECLARANT IN ANY SECTOR
- WHERE THE INCOME IS IN FOREIGN BANK DEPOSITS, REQUIRING REMITTANCE INTO NIGERIA, NO DECLARANT WHO CLAIMS IMMUNITY SHALL BE REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE THE NATURE AND SOURCE OF THE REMITTANCE

APPLICATION

THE BILL APPLIES TO INCOME DECLARANTS WHO MAY BE APPREHENSIVE REGARDING INQUIRIES, IN RESPECT OF ANY INCOME CHARGEABLE UNDER THE INCOME TAX LAW



PLAC

DATA PROTECTION BILL

In the Application of the bill, data obtained:


- Shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose(s) for which they are processed
- Shall be accurate and where necessary kept up to date

Rights of an Individual

An individual is entitled to be informed by the data controller of the logic involved in any decision-making, which is likely to affect the individual's rights, and any information available to the data controller as to the source of the data

Offences:

- Any person who knowingly or recklessly without consent of the data controller discloses or procures the disclosure of another person's data, which is likely to cause the individual to suffer damage or distress, commits an offence



PLAC

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE BILL 2015

OBJECTIVES

- Provide for the manner in which individuals may in the public interest disclose information that relates to crime, unlawful conduct or corrupt practices of others
- Provide for the protection against victimization of persons who make the disclosures
- Establish a fund for the sale of rewarding individuals who make the disclosures
- Enhance crime information gathering for security utilization and for related matters

MAKING A DISCLOSURE


A person may make a disclosure where that person has reasonable cause to believe that the information tends to show that a crime is committed, is about to be committed or is likely to be committed.

REWARD FOR DISCLOSURE

An informant who makes disclosure for the recovery of money shall be rewarded with 10% of the amount recovered or the amount of money the Board of Trustee may determine

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

A person who undertakes an investigation in respect of an impropriety and in the cause of that investigation conceals or suppresses evidence, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a prison term not less than 5 years.



PLAC

SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE (COMPULSORY INCLUSION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS SYLLABUSES) BILL, 2015

Bill Seeks To...


- PROVIDE FOR THE COMPULSORY TEACHING OF SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE STUDIES IN THE SYLLABUSES OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NIGERIA
- PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY-ORIENTED STUDIES OF SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND TO ALSO INCULCATE THE AWARENESS AND VALUE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE
- MAKE IT AN OFFENCE NOT TO INCLUDE THE TEACHING OF SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE STUDIES IN THE SYLLABUSES OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NIGERIA

Penalty For School

Every secondary school which fails or refuses to include the teaching of security and intelligence studies in their syllabuses commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of not less than N500,000 or may have its operating license revoked

Penalty For Individual

Where a secondary school commits an offence under, any officer or agent of the school who directed, authorized, assented to or acquiesced or participated in the commission of the offence is a party and is liable on conviction to a fine not less than N200,000, or to imprisonment for a term of 3 months.



PLAC

SECURED TRANSACTIONS IN MOVABLE ASSETS BILL

The Bill Seeks to...

- Enhance financial inclusion in Nigeria
- Facilitate access to credit secured with movable assets
- Facilitate perfection of security interest in movable assets
- Facilitate realization of security interests in movable assets
- Establish a collateral registry and provide for its operations

If the Bill is passed into law...


- A registrar shall be appointed by the CBN governor to supervise and administer the operations of the collateral registry
- National collateral registry shall be established in the central bank, where information on movable property shall be stored
- The applicable legislation applicable to the creation, perfection and priority of a security interest in tangible property shall be this bill (when it becomes law)
- Only the proceeds described in the financing statement or bank accounts or negotiable instruments shall perfect a security interest
- A security agreement entered into by a grantor and a creditor shall create a security interest

The Bill shall apply to...

- All financing and operating leases entered into after this bill is passed into law
- All security interests in movable assets created by an agreement that secure payment or the performance of an obligation
- A person who is a creditor, borrower or grantor

The Bill shall not apply to...

- Any right of set-off
- The creation or transfer of an interest in land other than account receivables
- Any interest created by a transfer, assignment or mortgage in movable property governed by a law for which a registry has been established with regards to ships and aircrafts



PLAC

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Oversight Actions by Committees Supported by PLAC

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1

Performance Survey Conducted

12

Targeted committees of the National Assembly reached their work plan benchmarks

3,399,578 people reached on social media platforms





Working Towards Credible Elections Through the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room Platform

Supported by: British Department for International Development (DFID)

After the 2015 elections, PLAC which hosts and convenes the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room (Situation Room), continued to play a key role in good governance and demanding for accountability and transparency in government reforms.

Retreat and Annual General Meeting-

The Situation Room held its retreat and annual general meeting from 8th February 2017 to 11th February 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to review the state of the nation and to articulate ways of engaging the Government and INEC.

Quarterly meetings/ dialogue sessions with the INEC Chairman-

Situation Room in this timeframe held a series of engagements with the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission. The first of these engagements was on 16th March 2017 following far-reaching announcements regarding dates and plans for the 2019 General Elections. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a platform for the INEC's

Chairman and National Commissioners to further articulate, analyse and review plans for the 2019 general elections. The event provided the opportunity to further listen to INEC on its preparations for the election and as well enable civil society and Situation Room members to request further details from INEC on strategies to achieve credible elections in 2019.

The second of such engagement was done in conjunction with the Inspector General of Police. This dialogue session which held on 23rd June 2017 was aimed at Election Security & other emerging national issues. This meeting marked the first time the IGP will meet with the Situation Room to discuss of role of the Police in elections. Additionally, the IGP addressed several other issues of national concern within his first year in office and he made a commitment to meet with the Situation Room on a quarterly basis like the INEC Chair.

The final dialogue session with the INEC Chairman for 2017 held on 24th October 2017. This meeting was necessary for Civil Society Organisations and other stakeholders to deliberate on the preparation of INEC for the election as well as discuss measures towards ensuring the governorship election in Anambra State is free, fair and credible.

Quarterly Dialogue Sessions with the Inspector General of Police-

Having set a precedent with the first dialogue session with the IGP in June 2017 and in keeping with commitments made by the IGP, the second dialogue session with

the IGP held on 12th September 2017 at Transcorp Hilton Hotel. The Dialogue Session was focused on the Anambra Governorship Election which held on Saturday, 18th November 2017. In light of the recent threats by a few militant groups to disrupt the conduct of the election, the purpose of the Dialogue Session was to understand the strategy of the Nigeria Police to carry out effective policing during the election. The IGP highlighted the recommendations from the last dialogue session and what they had done so far. He also addressed several issues related to Police preparations for the Anambra Governorship Election including deployment.

The Situation Room also had other notable engagements with members of the Executive.

- **Dialogue Session with Minister of Budget & National Planning:** The Dialogue Session with the Minister of Budget & National Planning held on 4th July 2017 to discuss the 2017 Nigeria Budget and the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, ERGP (2017 to 2020). Civil Society groups learnt more about the ERGP and how the plan will achieve its stated goals of Restoring Growth, Investing In Our People And Building A Competitive Economy.
- **Dialogue Session with Vice-President:** The Dialogue Session which held on 5th October 2017 was an opportunity for the Vice-President to address several broad national issues, including healing and unity issues. The Dialogue Session was very interactive and provided an opportunity for Situation Room members, civil

society organisations and activists, as well as other participants to ask questions and seek clarifications on current issues of national discourse and concern.

- **2017 Anambra State Governorship Election:** The election in Anambra State is one of the off-cycle elections and the Situation Room was critical in civil society advocacy, awareness and voter education. Situation Room's interventions were key in the run up to elections and on election day.
- **South-East Consultative Forum with CSOs and INEC, Awka:** Situation Room's engagement in Awka was two-fold. The first of which was a consultative forum between the leadership of the Situation Room and its members and other CSOs working in the South-East Region of Nigeria that held between 13th September to Friday, 15th September 2017. The interaction with CSOs was to foster meaningful participation to engage the electoral process and work out the best way that CSOs in the zone will feed in and contribute to the observation of the Anambra State Governorship Election. The second was a meeting between Situation Room and INEC officials in Anambra State. These INEC officials consisted of the REC, Directors and Electoral Officers in all the LGAs in Anambra State.
- **Dialogue Session with INEC REC And Police Commissioner Anambra State:** This is a customary Situation

Room engagement with the REC and Police Commissioner ahead of any election. This held on 3rd November 2017. The dialogue session was an opportunity for civil society to interact with the INEC REC and Commissioner of Police of Anambra State on the specific preparations for the elections and the security situation ahead of the Anambra State Governorship election scheduled for 18th November 2017.

- **Security Threat Assessment:** Situation Room collaborated with CLEEN Foundation for the Anambra State Governorship Election to carry out a Security Threat Assessment (STA) of the Election. The STA issued by CLEEN Foundation identified likely hotspots fed into Situation Room's preparation for the election. On Election Day, CLEEN Foundation set up its call centre to observe the

conduct of security agencies in the Situation Room as was done in Edo and Ondo States.

- **Training for Election Observers:** Situation Room in preparation for the election, recruited observers for the election. In order to ensure they were equipped to perform this task, a workshop was organised and held on 19th October 2017 to engage and train election observers ahead of the election.
- **Anambra Governorship Debate:** Situation Room collaborated with EnoughisEnough (EiE) Nigeria and National Democratic Institute (NDI) to support the governorship debate of candidates in the Anambra State Election.



- **Observation of Anambra State Governorship Election-** Situation Room observed the Anambra State Governorship Election from 15th November 2017 to 19th November 2017. The communication room was set-up in Awka with a team of about 40 people. During the election, two statements were issued- a preliminary and interim statement.
- **Fourth Situation Room's Stakeholders' Forum on Elections:** The Situation Room successfully convened the fourth edition of the Stakeholders Forum on Elections on 19th December 2017. This event had in attendance Ms. Juliet Ibekaku representing the Attorney-General of the Federation, the House Committee Chair on Electoral and Political Party Matters, Hajia Aisha Dukku, the Inspector-General of Police represented by AIG Taiwo Lakana, Hajia Amina Zakari, INEC National Commissioner who represented the INEC Chairman and other INEC National Commissioners. This edition reviewed the Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill before the House of Representatives, the conduct of security officers during elections and had a panel discussion on perspectives from the Anambra State governorship election: CSO efforts, reflections and emerging issues.

Continuous Social Media Engagement: The Situation Room continued to disseminate news and information using its social media platforms. During this period, information on confirmation of INEC Resident Electoral Commissioners, information on the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise and locations

for registration, general updates on the Anambra Governorship election etc were disseminated via the social media platforms.

Other activities

Situation Room Meeting With Special Assistant to the President on Social Protection and Civil Society Organisations: This interactive session held on 1st March 2017 was aimed at understanding the Federal Government's Social Safety Net Programme.

Collaboration with Centre For Citizens Living With Disabilities to hold a Zonal Meeting In The North-West Zone (Kaduna) on Electoral Reforms for people living with disabilities.

Situation Room Courtesy Call/Advocacy Meeting to the Inspector General of Police on April 6th 2017

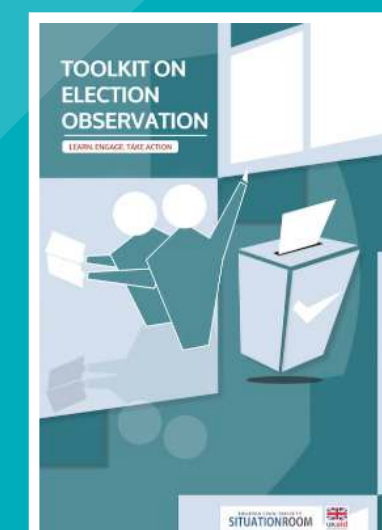
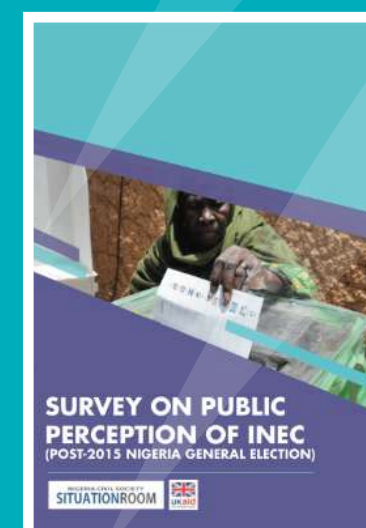
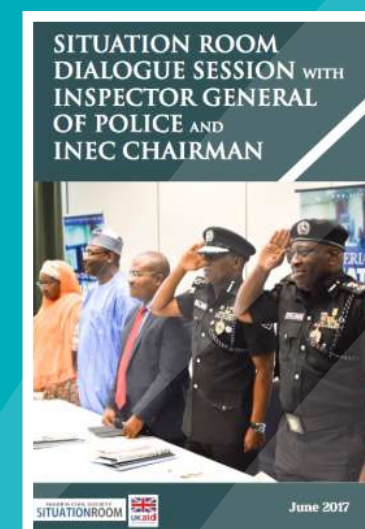
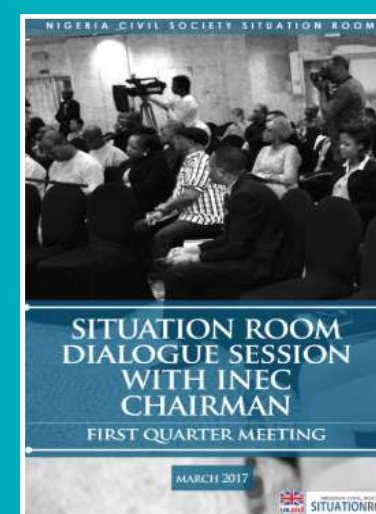
Situation Room Election Preparation Workshop: The Workshop, which held on 31st May 2017, was focused on developing a strategic engagement & action plan towards the 2019 General Election. The workshop was to strategically engage the 2019 general elections and beyond, and also used the opportunity to begin discussions on developing a comprehensible operational document of a plan and action

Situation Room supported the Centre for Citizens Living with Disabilities CCD to train and deploy persons with disabilities (PWD) observers to produce evidence-based report on equal voting access to citizens with disabilities in the electoral process.

List of Publications

- Situation Room Dialogue Session with INEC Chairman (March 2017)
- Situation Room Dialogue Session with Inspector General of Police and INEC Chairman (June 2017)
- Dialogue Session with Minister of Budget and National Planning
- Survey on Public Perception of INEC (post 2015 Nigeri General Election)
- Toolkit on Election Observation

Publications





KEY FIGURES

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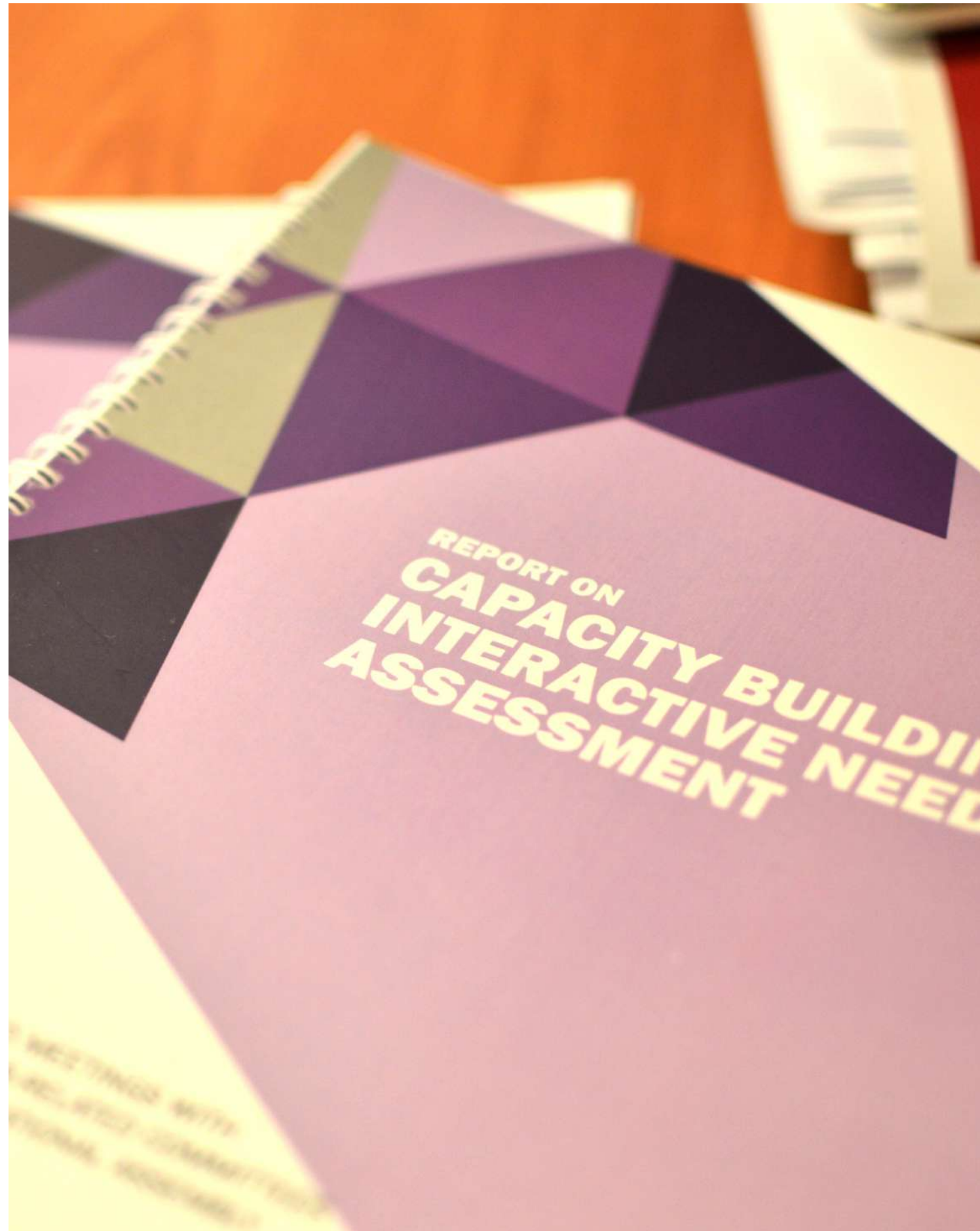
Dialogue Sessions

Strengthening the Civil Society Election Situation Room

Funded by: The Open Society for West Africa (OSIWA)

Two major highlights of OSIWA's support to Situation Room in 2017 were as follows:

1. **Public presentation and Launch of a publication** on 2015 General Elections in Nigeria - Compendium of Petitions on Monday, 10th July 2017. This publication compiles petitions arising from the conduct of the 2015 general elections. It identified and highlights the issues and patterns found in the petitions. The event was successful and served as an opportunity for stakeholders to review the election petitions and suggest reforms to existing strategies aimed at preventing re-occurrence in future Nigeria elections.
2. **Courtesy visit to the Chief Justice of Nigeria**, Justice Walter Nkanu Onnoghen, GCON on Wednesday 4th October 2017. The Courtesy visit served a dual purpose, firstly to present the compendium and to state Situation Room's interest in expanding its scope of engagement to include the Judiciary especially on the issue of election petitions.



Consolidating the Improvements of the 2015 General Elections

Supported by: MacArthur Foundation

PLAC continues receiving support from MacArthur Foundation under a project titled consolidating the improvements of the 2015 general elections. In this period, PLAC organised a meeting to review election guidelines and published one study on election offences. This meeting was preceded by monthly meetings that were held at the MacArthur Foundation office

Improving Security Sector Oversight

Supported by: UK Conflict, Security and Stability Fund

As part of its engagement with the National Assembly, PLAC in partnership with the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) began implementing a "Supporting Democratic Oversight and Accountability of the Nigerian Security Sector Programme" under the Security and Justice Reform Project funded by the UK Conflict, Security and Stability Fund. Although PLAC had consistent interventions with the National Assembly, this was the first time

it was working towards security sector reform and with security sector related committees of the National Assembly.

Thus in order to form a baseline for targeted interventions, PLAC commenced its inception phase. The engagements in this phase consisted of an introductory CSO Experience Sharing workshop on Security Sector Reform in Nigeria and a needs assessment meeting with security sector related committees of the National Assembly. The essence of the introductory experience-sharing meeting was to present the project to the community of actors working in the field of support to good security sector governance in Nigeria and map civil society interventions on security sector reform in Nigeria. The workshop was largely successful as there was a collaborative identification of existing SSRG work conducted by international partners and key CSOs in Nigeria. More importantly, PLAC was able to obtain the support and collaboration of participating CSOs who acknowledged that partnership and collaboration would complement their own wider project objectives.

PLAC also published a needs assessment document to guide its interventions with the security sector related committees. The information for the needs assessment was gathered during a capacity building and interactive needs assessment workshop with nine security sector related committees of the 8th House of Representatives¹ and consultative meetings with the 8th Senate Committees on Police Affairs, Defence

¹ Committees on Army, Navy, Defence, Police Affairs, Drugs and Narcotics, Financial Crimes, Human

and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal matters. The main objective of the needs assessment was to identify and analyse the specific technical and institutional needs of the key security sector related committees to perform their mission to oversee the security sector, with a view to improving accountability for Nigerians.

Furthermore, as part of its inception phase a mapping analysis was produced, borne out of consultative meetings and a series of working sessions of a research team, commissioned by PLAC for this specific purpose. This culminated in the publication of a research study titled, *Structural and Institutional Mechanisms for Security Sector Oversight in Nigeria: Issues and Challenges*. This document provided maps existing structures for oversight of the security sector and examines the issues and challenges hindering effective oversight of Nigeria's security sector.

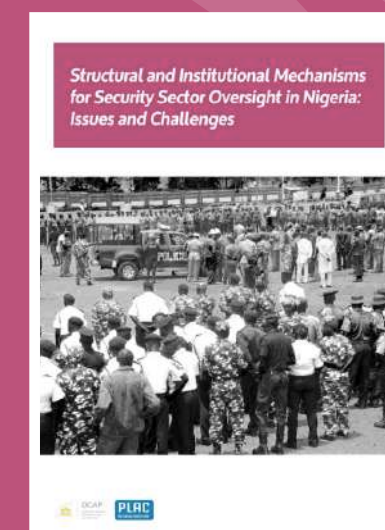
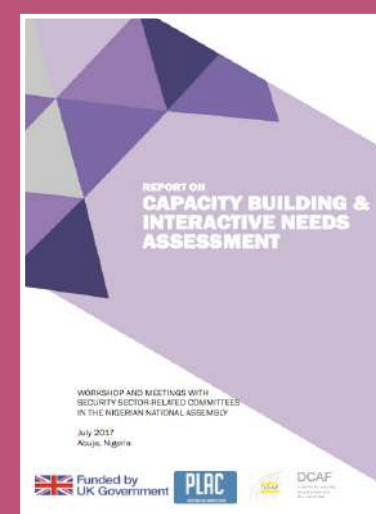
Following a successful inception phase and building on information gathered from the self needs assessment, the first capacity building workshop for National Assembly Clerks and Staff was held on 27 November 2017. The workshop was on Legislative Oversight of the Security Sector and the objective was for participants to have a better understanding of the role of the legislature in SSRG and how legislative committees help perform this role.

Finally, in the implementation of the project, PLAC supported public hearing on security sector related matters. The

Rights, Interior, and National Security and Intelligence

first of which was the public hearing by the Committees on Army, together with the committees on Defence, Air Force, Navy, Interior, Police Affairs, Finance, National Security and Intelligence on a resolution passed by the House on "the Need to Re-energize the Nigerian Military and Paramilitary Forces to Meet Urgent National Demands." The second was the public hearing by the House Committee on Interior on 28th and 29th November 2017 on 8 bills concerning the Nigerian Prisons Service (NPS), the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), and the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS).

Publications





Expanding the Political Participation of Women

Supported by: Ford Foundation

PLAC began implementing a project on expanding the political participation of women in Nigeria. The purpose of this project was to improve inclusiveness and opportunities for women participation in governance with the specific objectives of building the capacity of women and policymakers to advocate for reforms to expand the inclusion of women in governance and to create awareness and expand conversations on the challenges and solutions to women's participation in governance.

In fulfilment of this purpose, PLAC produced a documentary- *UnderRepresented*- that explored the views of 34 interviewees comprising of female past

and present legislators, politicians, civil society activists, religious leaders and younger female politicians to discover why, in spite of efforts to improve women's political participation, women remain less likely to run for office, and when they do, fail to get elected. The themes explored in the documentary sparked conversations that should contribute to solutions and inclusive policy decisions towards women's representation. The documentary has been discussed as a first of its kind and referred to as a new advocacy tool for advocating for increased participation of women in politics.

The documentary was premiered to a large audience of 133 participants in Abuja on the 18th of December 2017 at the Shehu Yar'Adua Centre. The screening was attended by legislators, representatives of the Independent National Electoral Commission, civil society and the media.



The screening of *UnderRepresented* and the lead up formed the basis of awareness campaigns and social media advocacy. From PLAC's social media efforts on this project, PLAC was able to reach over 400,000 persons and 1,020, 720 impressions, of which 359,227 persons were reached and there were 938, 209 impressions on the day of the screening.

To mark 16 days of activism against gender based violence commemorated worldwide beginning 25th November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10th December (Human Rights Day), PLAC organised a Stakeholders' Roundtable for Policymakers on Addressing Political Violence against Women, which took place on 29th November 2017. It educated participants who came from different levels of society and governance on the issue of political violence against women, efforts taken so far by the National Assembly and likely actions to take to curb political violence against women towards improving the participation of women in politics. Participants at this Roundtable included members of the Senate Chamber of the Nigerian National Assembly, female National Commissioners of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC), Members of the Conference of Female Parliamentarians- State Houses of Assembly (CONFEPAs), Media and Civil Society.

To commemorate International Women's Day, PLAC co-ordinated a small video session where leading female legislators of the 8th Assembly urged women, especially young women, to participate in the governance process and made commitments to engage the project.

Civil Society Engagement with the Legislature for Rights-Based Lawmaking

Supported by: Embassy of France

PLAC in collaboration with the Embassy of France marked the International Human Rights Day with a roundtable in order to raise awareness on the current gaps that exist in the advancement of human rights in the Nigerian Legislature. Part of this engagement, was the publication of research study titled, Civil Society Engagement with the Legislature for Rights- Based Lawmaking. The purpose of the study was to provide a step-by-step, possible guide to engaging with the Legislature, especially the "dos and don'ts" for engagement that will help in advocacy as well as audit and monitor compliance and implementation of selected protocols, conventions, decisions and best practice standards at international, continental, and regional platforms that Nigeria is part of.

2017 in pictures



Special Feature: Photos from #UnderRepresented Premiere



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